



# EL HEMISFERICO

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Informing the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation Community

Summer 2005, 10th Edition



## 'Major' graduation—

### WHINSEC officers complete yearlong course

By Spc. Adrian A. Lugo  
ELH Staff Writer

Early morning cloudy gray skies greatly contrasted the vibrant colored military uniforms of this year's Command and General Staff Officer Course graduates during a ceremony at the steps of Ridgway Hall, June 10.

The 43 students of this yearlong course represented the militaries of 10 culturally and geographically distinct nations ranging from the frosty Canadian north to the tropical lowland plains of the Bolivian Amazon Basin.

Despite such differences in backgrounds all these students have a shared commonality that brought them to enroll in the course offered at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, which is to further their professional skills as field grade commanders and principal staff officers.



Photo by Spc. Adrian A. Lugo  
Colombian Maj. German Perdomo Vargas accepts his diploma from Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, Commander of SOUTHCOM during the CGSOC graduation at Ridgway Hall June 10. Forty-three students from 10 nations graduated the course which is designed to prepare mid-career officers for more senior-level military service.

**See CGSOC page 5**

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## Faux drug lab expanded

By Jo Kennedy  
ELH Staff Writer

The summer months have been especially sweltering for members of the Department of Training and Special Operations as they prepare for autumn's incoming classes.

U.S. and foreign guest instructors departed their air-conditioned offices to become deeply entrenched in the woods of Fort Benning's W-2 training area, where WHINSEC operates a simulated drug lab for

counternarcotic training purposes.

Their mission for the summer was to improve the existing training lab, which consisted of a single structure without walls, to create a realistic South American-style drug lab that contains three buildings covered by roofs and connected by small bridges.

The effort required \$20,000 of building materials and more than a dozen personnel, including DTSO's Colombian Guest

Instructor Maj. Alberto Romero, who headed the design process.

"The former drug lab was not even closely constructed to the realistic conditions of a Colombian drug lab," said Romero, who has extensive counternarcotic experience in the effort while serving in the Colombian Special Forces.

"But, the site itself is perfectly suited for recreating the conditions surrounding a

**See W-2 Lab page 8**

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# Commandant's Corner



*WHINSEC continues to handle multiple missions at the highest standards, and I truly appreciate the dedication of our civilians and soldiers.*

*First, the ILE team is getting us prepared to offer the new Command and General Staff Officer Course, starting July 2006.*

*This will be a major achievement, allowing us to continue to educate and quality U.S. officers as they seek promotion and higher level assignments. Related to this endeavor is the drive toward making WHINSEC a Center of Excellence for Spanish-speaking Foreign Area Officers.*

*We have a lot of external support for this concept and, if it comes to fruition,*

*we will evolve into a new organization that is even more essential to the future of the Army.*

*I cannot say enough about the great work that Translation Division is doing to get all the ILE material prepared, especially while maintaining their regular work load.*

*Furthermore, the NCO Professional Development Course has been re-written and required materials translated on schedule for the class in session now.*

*Also, there are many new faces around the institute — both civilian and Soldier — so I ask all personnel to extend a gracious WHINSEC welcome to them.*

*We were low on military personnel in recent months, but with the help of General Wallace from the Combined Arms Center and General Craddock of U.S. Southern Command, our workforce is being strengthened with outstanding Soldiers to maintain our high standards.*

**Col. Gilberto R. Pérez,**  
WHINSEC Commandant

## Outstanding Soldiers & Civilians



**Nelmy Greenwood,**  
Resource Management  
Secretary  
Employee of the Quarter



**Spc. Gerardo Salazar**  
Human Resources  
Soldier of the Third Quarter



**Jackie Battest,**  
Chief of Staff Secretary  
Commander's Quality  
Champion Award



**Staff Sgt. Jeffery Feliciano,**  
Combat Service Support Medic  
NCO of the Third Quarter



**Cecilia Alexander,**  
Field Studies Program  
Coordinator  
Post Civilian Employee of  
the Month (July)



# Opinion

## *La Opinión*

## Where are we now?

By Lee Rials  
WHINSEC PAO

One of my coworkers, in introducing me to a visitor, said I have a job he would never want. That's funny to me, because I think this is the best job in the institute. And, it gets even better as we get to 'protest season,' which is Nov. 19-20 this year.

Throughout the year I tell callers, "Come see us for yourself." I can do that because on any work day here, every person in the building is going about his/her work, and doing it in a pleasant professional manner.

Previous commandants got the idea (or at least embraced it) to hold an Open House on the weekend of the protests, for those who came for the protest events but were willing to take a look for themselves at WHINSEC.

Each year we have done a better job. That better job means that we give less and less time to looking at the building, and more with the commandant and his staff.

The better job means bringing in State Department, Board of Visitors, and Army representatives to ensure every question is answered by someone who can give a definitive answer.

The better job means putting two people from WHINSEC on each bus to keep the education going from start to finish.

I am confident that we are going to keep doing this until the protest goes away, or until every group who comes here has been through the institute.

And speaking of the protest going away, there is no sign of that, but there are many signs that it has less and less effect.

Every year since the fences have gone up, the number of those arrested for trespassing has diminished. Fewer people going to jail means fewer news stories in fewer places about them.

All major media and most international media ignore the whole issue; last year's protest got 15 seconds on CNN Headline News on Sunday; they had to share a half minute with the "God Bless Fort Benning" event.

And speaking of "God Bless Fort Benning," last year's event may have outdrawn the protest, and this year promises to be double that one. Although some of us



Photo by Spc. Adrian A. Lugo  
Fort Benning MPs stage a mock protest in front of the Institute (Nov. 18, 2004) to test security for the annual Open House Tour.

will be operating the open house here, our families and all our students are welcome to go to the Civic Center to enjoy the many activities planned, including a concert by country singer Tracy Lawrence.

The only 'threat' to the Institute is the possibility that Congress, who created us, will close us. Despite their spin on events, the protest movement's leadership is getting fewer members of Congress to support the legislation. My view is that we will grow and expand in the future.

Our only responsibility is to keep doing our jobs.

I encourage you to engage in conversation about the institute, and you never know when the opportunity will arise. In May, our Captains Career Course went to Washington, and in a meeting with non-governmental organizations, actually discussed the institute with a SOAWatch staffer.

Also, invite people to come visit us. Those who oppose us will not see anything to encourage them, and those who support us will be able to talk knowledgeably about us.

Either way, we win.

## In the Loop With WHINSEC

What WHINSEC event are you looking forward to in the next few months?

"I am looking forward to getting all the instructors certified this fall to be part of the riverine operations in the Institute so they are then able to teach it to their upcoming courses."



- Staff Sgt. Hector Vera  
Special Operations Division,  
Course Director



"Aside from the *Cena Típica*, I'm looking forward to our Institute building a stronger more cooperative relationship with the USAIC."

- Raquel Etzler  
Command Group, Secretary



"I am looking forward to mountaineer training in Dahlonega, Ga., and the litter obstacle course for TAC-7."

- Staff Sgt. Jose Graulau  
Combat Service Support Division,  
Course Director

# Institute gets more credits

By Dr. Donald B. Harrington  
Dean of Academics

Among the many noteworthy aspects of the graduation of the fourth Command and General Staff Officers Course (CGSOC) from the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation was the granting of eight Masters of Science in Management degrees from Troy University.

The eight graduates included five students from the CGSOC, Maj. Javier Cardona, the Course Director for the Class of 2006, and two guest instructors, Lt. Col. Antonio Barros of Brazil and Lt. Col. Luis Altamirano of Ecuador.

The last two graduates are of particular note, for they did the course work for the degree in English which is, of course, not their native language.

This linguistic hurdle has been the reason that only two previous guest instructors received graduate degrees in the past.

Now, thanks to the May 13 signing of an academic agreement between WHINSEC and Jones International University (JIU), one of the leading on-line universities in the U.S., that hurdle may be a problem of the past.

Under the agreement, JIU will allow the transfer of 12-15 graduate credits towards four different Masters degrees in Business and Education for students of the CGSOC.

Of particular interest for the guest instructors is that JIU also offers a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree in Spanish for which it will allow 15 transfer credits towards a 36-hour degree.

In addition, JIU will provide a 20 per cent discount off standard tuition rates for all "students, alumni, faculty and employees" of the Institute. Further details on the programs available may be found at the JIU website at [www.jonesinternational.edu](http://www.jonesinternational.edu).

The Institute is pleased to announce this new association with Jones International University at the same time that it continues its existing agreement with Troy University for the Masters of Science in Management and with Norwich University for the Masters in Diplomacy.

WHINSEC also has an agreement for the transfer of graduate credits for several different Masters degree programs with

Webster University.

In addition, negotiations are ongoing with Troy University for an agreement on a Masters of Science in International Relations with a specialization in Latin American Studies and with Florida International University on a Master of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

For specific details on all of the above programs, contact Dr. Russell Ramsey, WHINSEC Visiting Professor, at [ramseyr@army.benning.army.mil](mailto:ramseyr@army.benning.army.mil).

Internally, the Institute continues to move ahead on several academic fronts.

The Constitutional and Human Rights Scenario is being integrated more and more deeply into courses and students must consider the very real contemporary problems of civilians in the battlefield, treatment of prisoners, etc... in their planning and practical exercises.

In one dramatic example of scenario use, the Dean, the Department Head for Tactics and Special Operations (DTSO), a guest instructor in human rights and personnel from the PAO office went to the field where they spent nearly two hours with 57 Colombian cadets from the LDR-4 course.

Preparations are now being made to use the scenario to develop a training video for additional training in all classes.

The scenario leads students to give particular consideration to the protection of human and civil rights and constitutional rights such as freedom of the press, freedom of speech, redress of grievances, the right of peaceful assembly, etc. during military and police operations.

The result is a more concrete and memorable experience in the practical application of human and constitutional rights.

Finally, in a continuation of the

*DEAN'S NOTES*  
A COMMENTARY  
ON SCHOLASTIC HAPPENINGS

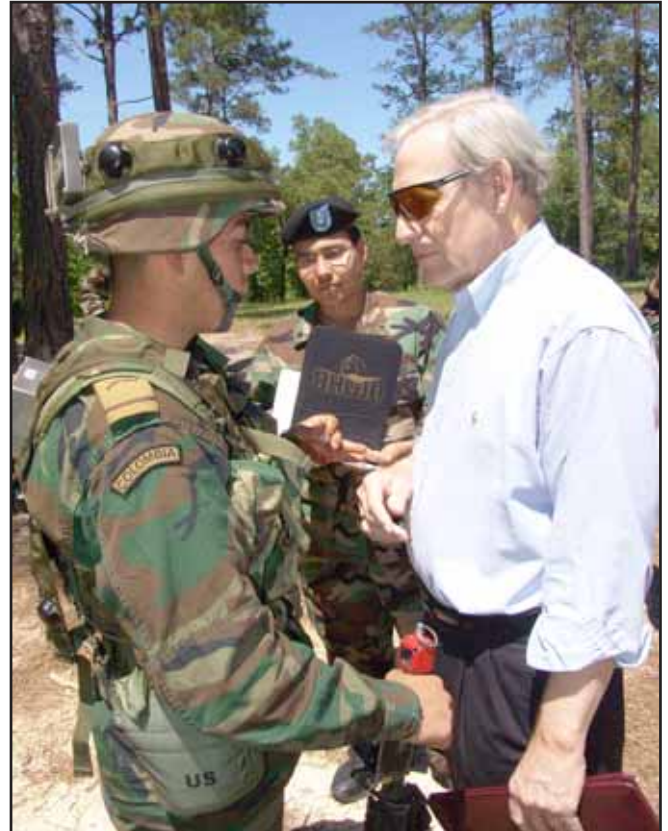


Photo by Jo Kennedy  
Donald Harrington, portraying an angry rural mayor, accusingly stares down a LDR-4 student squad leader who was "ambushed" with questions from media and local-government roleplayers, April 28.

Institute's engagement with the non-governmental (NGO) community, the Captains Career Course met on May 16 in Washington, D.C. with eight representatives of different organizations.

In a lively exchange, which lasted two hours, students and NGO representatives discussed current issues and, in the process, arrived at a better understanding of the role of both NGOs and the Institute.

The exchange was so successful that arrangements are being made to have the CGSOC class of 2006 meet with a group of NGOs during the annual Washington, D.C. trip in October.

These exchanges are an outgrowth of the meeting held with NGOs at the Institute in January of this year, which included an hour with the CGSOC class of 2005.

The primary purpose of these meetings is to establish a better understanding of roles and missions between NGOs and the security forces of the hemisphere.



# CGSOC continued from page 1

The course, outlined in its catalog, familiarizes these mid-career officers with doctrine, tactics, staff procedures, and democracy and human rights training in order to better perform in combat planning, joint planning, and "operations other than war" planning and implementation.

Because this course is taught at WHINSEC, lectures and course work were taught in Spanish and took on a special emphasis in current humanitarian and anti-narcoterrorist operations in the region.

Guest speaker for the ceremony, Gen. Bantz Craddock, Commander of U.S. Southern Command, touched upon current issues facing the region and described certain difficulties in the region as "threads that bind brothers across borders."

"Graduation from this course is indeed a major milestone in your professional career. It symbolizes the evolution beyond the mere rank of major to the embodiment of a truly superior officer," said Craddock.

"Today's challenges are complex," he added. "They include transnational terrorism, narco-terror, illicit trafficking, forgery and money laundering, kidnappings, urban gangs, radical movements, poverty,



Photo by Spc. Adrian A. Lugo

*Students of the CGSOC wait for their names to be called before they walk across the stage in front of Ridgway Hall and accept their diploma June 10.*

corruption, natural disasters and mass migration. The dynamic interplay of these elements undermines security and stability, impeding democracy and the prosperity of many societies."

Quoting an unnamed South American Minister of Defense, Craddock stated that "we are now united by the threats we face, not divided by them."

He lauded the joint environment offered by the course, which he believes fosters international understanding and cooperation.

Despite the serious tone of his speech, Craddock couldn't

help but add some levity to open up the occasion by speaking to a mixed crowd of nearly 300 friends and family members about his own experiences at the CGSOC in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

"It's been almost 20 years to the day since I graduated from my intermediate level education ... Back in those days we were told over and over again 'This is the best year of your life!', and I do hope this has been for you. I'll have to admit my year was pretty good — probably only topped by two years I spent in the fifth grade," he quipped to the class.

According to Dominican Army Lt. Ambiorix Cepeda Hernandez, this was indeed a good year for him.

"This course was very insightful. It let you see how decisions were made and plans laid out at levels beyond you," said Cepeda before heading off to the airport.

"I will really miss this place. It took a good year to build friendships here and the community has been very friendly and welcoming since the first day I arrived. This year will have a special place in me," he said.

During the course year, five students earned their Masters Degrees in Management from Troy University; U.S. Army Majors Javier E. Cardona, Onel Colón, Richard J. Lawless, Juan F. Mata, and David P. Mellars.

They received their diplomas during the ceremony, along with two foreign guest instructors who also completed requirements for the Masters, Lt. Col. Antonio M. Barros (Brazil) and Lt. Col. Luis M. Altamirano (Ecuador).

Other countries represented in the course included the United States, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.



## HHC CoC

*At far left: Capt. Madeline Rivero, former HHC commander hands the company's guidon back to WHINSEC Commandant Col. Gilberto Perez, who then delegates command and authority over the company to Capt. Jorge Albin, Jr., in front of Ridgway Hall June 17. Later during the reception, Albin is seen cutting an official cake to mark the moment.*

Photo by Spc. Adrian A. Lugo



# ¿Que Pasa at WHINSEC?

## Around the halls ...



**Photos at left:** 1) Sgt. Major Jimenez congratulates Guatemalan Guest Instructor "Dr." Luis Ramirez, who recently completed a doctorate in International Relations, June 20. 2) WHINSEC Commandant Col. Pérez raises his glass in a toast along with Paraguayan officials and their families during a "brindis" celebration of Paraguay's independence, May 20. 3) Students from the Resource Management Course receive a complimentary lunch following a presentation on the Department of Defense's annual Virtual Wartime Visibility surge test contracted through UniPro Foodservice, Inc. in Atlanta, June 17. 4) University professors and military educators from Guatemala receive breakfast and a briefing on WHINSEC by Assistant Dean of Academics Joe Leuer, June 27.

**Photos at right:** 5) Students from the Engineer Operations course add the roof's skeleton during the base camp construction phase of training, June 14. 6) Students and instructors team up in the early morning hours to compete during July's End of the Month Swim / Run event. 7) Students from the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Course race against the clock to overcome the obstacle at hand during the Leader's Reaction Course phase of training, June 2. 8) WHINSEC's Command Sgt. Maj. Rafael Colondres fires down range during pistol qualification training, June 1. 9) U.S. and foreign guest instructors hit the mats during week-long Combative's Course-1 training, July 20. 10) Soldiers go sky high while participating in a recertification jump, June 23.



and in the field.



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.8

*Photos by  
Spc. Adrian A. Lugo  
and Jo Kennedy*



# W-2 Lab continued from page 1



Photo by Jo Kennedy

typical drug lab,” he said, listing the lab’s location on a basin, surrounded by woods and close to the river, which are essential for concealment and transport in a realistic laboratory.

Besides outlining the physical structure, Romero’s plans include acquiring typical drug lab materials, such as microwaves, weight scales, an electric plant, and flour to simulate cocaine. These will be added to the

buildings in September during the “interior decorating phase.”

Reconstruction of the drug lab also served as a training event for WHINSEC’s U.S. Soldiers, said Maj William Worley, DTSO chief.

The intent was for the Soldiers to gain an intimate knowledge of the operational side of drug labs in order to enhance their abilities as instructors, he explained.

Construction required the operational experience of foreign guest instructors, the technical knowledge of WHINSEC’s combat engineers, the carpentry expertise of Department of Logistics personnel, as well as nearly all the manpower available in the Special Operations Division.

Because the construction effort was in the leadership hands of several personnel, such as Romero, Combat Service Support Division’s Staff Sgt. Jose Graulau and DOL representative Leroy Stinson, Worley states that the success of the endeavor is directly related to the DTSO Soldiers’ ability to work as a team, regardless of the project or the leadership.

“It does not matter who gets the credit,” said Worley. “We all win in the end as we work to provide the most realistic and demanding training possible for our allied nations in the global war on terrorism through counternarcotic efforts.”

## Student Barracks now open for business

By Spc. Adrian A. Lugo  
ELH Staff Writer

Tent City is no more! – referring to the 14,000 sq. ft. white temporary tent-barracks erected on the southwest parking lot of Building 2816.

After nearly six months of waiting, Student Company Headquarters, Building 2816, was finally ready for occupancy on July 28.

To mark the occasion, Student Company Commander, Capt. George Mitschke, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Leroy Coronado, and WHINSEC Commandant Col Gilberto Pérez brought out a pair of giant novelty scissors to cut a strip of yellow construction tape to officially rededicate the barracks in front of faculty and members of the Ft. Benning community.

It was a welcome sight for Mitschke, who during the ceremony praised the pace of the renovation process that made opening day come 52 days ahead of schedule.

“It’s been quite a juggle maintaining our real world mission of training students and renovating this building but it is finally complete and it could not have been done without some help,” said



Photo by Spc. Adrian A. Lugo

WHINSEC faculty and members of the Ft. Benning community step through the front doors to begin their tour of the recently revamped Student Company Headquarters, Building 2816, on July 28.

**See Student Barracks page 9**



# Joint training yields first NCO Corps Instructors in Ecuador

Story and photo by Capt. Sarah E.M. Schwennesen, U.S. Air Force  
ELH Special Contribution

**MACHACHI, Ecuador**— Suboficiales (noncommissioned officers) from the Ecuadorian Army were recognized in a graduation ceremony at the Escuela de Infantería (Infantry School) in Machachi, Ecuador, March 22.

These suboficiales are the new cadre for the future senior noncommissioned officer education in the Ecuadorian Army.

"The course went very well. We had 30 motivated students who now form the core of NCO-instructors in the Ecuadorian Army. This will ensure that this institution [the NCO corps] is strong and viable and is able to handle future challenges that face this country," said Sgt. Maj. Jose Lopez, of U.S. Army South.

"We hope that this will be just the tip of the iceberg that we will discover in the development of our enlisted corps," said Col. Gustavo Acosta, commander of the Infantry School in Machachi.

From March 4 to 21, three instructors from the Western



Courtesy photo

Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation taught the Ecuadorian NCOs how to teach a high-level NCO course to develop their senior NCOs.

They were instructed in how to provide quality presentations and briefings, ways to gain the students' attention and keep it, how to convey information in an understandable and palatable manner and how conduct their

classroom instruction in general.

The three instructors, Sgt. 1st Class Gilbert Figueroa, Vilma Lewis and Alejandro Rivera Ortiz, were also recognized at the graduation with certificates of appreciation from the Infantry School.

"We were very impressed by the motivation and willingness of the students to learn the material. They enjoyed the course and we

enjoyed teaching this group of dedicated NCOs," said Sergeant First Class Gilbert Figueroa.

Graduates of this course instructed their first senior NCO course later in May at the infantry school.

*Note: Capt. Sarah E.M. Schwennesen is a member of the Public Affairs Office for the U.S. Military Group in Quito, Ecuador.*

## Student Barracks continued from page 9

Mitschke, thanking inspectors at DPW, the Garrison Command and personnel at FMO for their assistance beyond what was required. "Because of you we have this quality building," he added.

At an overall cost of about \$500,000, the renovation included new paint and ceiling tiles, tearing out and replacing floor tiles, electrical and cable re-wiring, improving the air-conditioning system, installing a new roof, putting in a new fire alarm system and adding more shower stalls on each floor, explained Mitschke.

Along with expanded restroom amenities, the barracks' day room also got a makeover with two large 52" projection TV theater areas, pool and foosball tables, as well as adding vending and ice machines, and a

mini-internet café with four computers with high-speed internet connection.

"All of this greatly benefits our personnel in providing them with better more comfortable living conditions," said Mitschke.

Opening day was also a welcomed sight for Pérez, who expressed his disdain for the building's previous state.

"Soldiers from all across the Americas are coming here to train with the best Army in the world, and yet they are staying in the worst accommodations. In my honest opinion this needed to change, and I'm glad we now have this quality building to rededicate today," said Perez.

After the ribbon cutting, those in attendance were invited to a tour of the

revamped building.

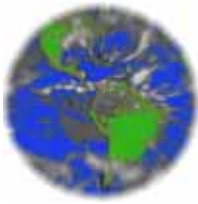
Aside from being a home-away-from-home for international students, the barracks is also meant to house single permanent-party Soldiers.

"It's amazing ... it's spectacular ... I got chills when I first stepped inside!" said (DOHR) Spc. Gerardo Salazar light-heartedly joking about the air conditioning system in contrast with the near-triple digit temperature outside during the ceremony.

"It's nice, and looks real comfortable," he added.

Spc. Antonio Alers, DOHR, mentioned that he liked the size of the rooms when he looked around.

"It's great — a nice environment to live and train," said Alers.



# EL HEMISFERICO

*Newsletter of the...*

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## WHINSEC *Family Day*



*Another summer has come and gone and what better way to salute a season of high heat, heavy showers and often unbearable humidity than with a little 'mandatory' fun in between class rotations? These photos were taken during the Institute's Family Day outing at Uchee Creek on July 29. Games and activities helped raise money for the unit's Family Readiness Group.*

- Photos were taken by Jo Kennedy and Spc. Adrian A. Lugo